

U.S. Rural electrification administration. ^{u.s.}
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HOW TO WORK WITH SCHOOLS

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This is an outline of activities that have proved useful in various REA-financed systems. It has been prepared for the use of REA borrowers that wish to work with schools in carrying out an educational program in rural electrification. This is not a suggested program for any one system. It is a checklist which every system can use in planning its own program.

HOW TO BEGIN

1. The manager or electrification adviser should make a tentative outline of the activities that would fit into the overall program in power use and cooperation. Use your own initiative to adapt and improve the suggestions in this bulletin.
2. The board of directors should discuss this outline and make their suggestions. The approval and support of the board are essential for a well-rounded program.
3. Discuss the proposed activities with the school officials whose cooperation is needed. Here is a list of the persons you ought to see. Ordinarily your discussions should start with the top men.

County school superintendent	Agriculture teachers
Rural grade school teachers	Homemaking teachers
High school principals	Shop or manual training teachers
School librarians	Science teachers
College president and teachers	Social science teachers

4. In planning this program with schools, an advisory committee might be established to develop and coordinate activities in connection with cooperative rural electrification. This committee should include the county superintendent of schools and representative teachers (rural grades, homemaking, agriculture, social science) along with other leaders.

TALKS, MOVIES, DEMONSTRATIONS

COMMUNITY GROUPS: Take part in meetings for parents and children in schools in REA-served areas. These may be initiated by the local teacher, PTA, or by you. If possible, help to plan a well-organized series of meetings on cooperation and power use. A meeting might include:

Pot-luck supper or picnic and group singing, games, or quiz program
Movie on an electrical subject (REA has a list of those available)
Brief talk or demonstration on electrical subject
Discussion of local experiences related to topic of evening's program

SCHOOL GROUPS: Offer to make a talk, or a series of talk, show movies, give a demonstration on the use of electricity or discuss the operation of your cooperative. Try to reach the following groups:

Shop or manual training classes
Agriculture classes, or Future Farmers or New Farmers of America (FFA, NFA)
Homemaking classes, or Future Homemakers or New Homemakers of America
4-H clubs in the schools
Adult evening classes in agriculture and home economics
General assemblies of pupils attending high schools and rural grade schools
Parent-Teachers Associations (PTA)
Teachers' organizations, faculty meetings, and county institutes

INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

INSTALLATIONS: Help to plan layouts and secure, finance, and install equipment in homemaking, shop, and agriculture laboratories and in rural schools. These may be used as demonstration centers. Locate installations so they will serve as examples for officials of other schools to visit. Depending on the size and type of schools, such installations might include:

Lighting, wiring	School lunch equipment	Farm equipment
Pressure water systems	Refrigeration	Movie equipment
Washrooms, toilets, showers	Electric cookery equipment	Shop equipment
Water heaters	Laundry & cleaning equipment	Radio
Stoker, fan, thermostat	Germicidal equipment	Other equipment

REA S-5 LOAN: Explain how the S-5 loan program can make money available to schools.

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS: Acquaint schools with discount plans on purchase of equipment for training use. Help them to locate and make arrangements to secure equipment.

ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING: Suggest plans for raising money to purchase equipment. Help with such activities wherever possible, also by making free installations. Some money-making activities include basket socials, pie suppers, movies, plays, community suppers, rummage sales, waste paper collections, and sale of school-made equipment, such as pig and chicken brooders, to farmers in the neighborhood.

INFORMATION, VISUAL AIDS

FURNISH INFORMATION: Provide information on electrical uses and cooperative organization to educational leaders in your area. Choose the information which would be most useful from the following sources:

Newsletter	Magazine reprints
Special newspaper edition	Movies from REA, USDA, manufacturers, others
Special co-op report	Posters or charts from manufacturers
REA bulletins	Manufacturers' bulletins
Extension Service bulletins	
Technical societies' releases	

Publicize special activities carried on by the schools for either youths or adults. Include information on evening classes, 4-H and FFA contests, equipment obtained and installed by the schools, etc.

Include stories in the newsletter about teachers who have carried on outstanding activities and cite them as sources of information.

LOAN OF EQUIPMENT: Provide equipment such as the following on a temporary loan basis:

Light meter	Small appliances	Exhibits, displays
Ammeter	Homemade equipment	Charts
Voltmeter	String of lights for outdoor use	Movie projector
Watt-hour meter	Cut-away models	Reference texts
Wiring boards		Other material

TECHNICAL HELP: Offer whatever technical help you can to schools that wish to carry on such activities as a repair clinic, day or evening classes on care of electric motors, construction of homemade equipment, etc. The REA pamphlet, "Electricity in Modern Rural Living," suggests subjects and activities and contains a reference list of material that can be used in preparing the subject-matter to be taught.

Hold supper meetings of agriculture and homemaking teachers. Show new movies and other educational tools. Discuss your common problems and ways of cooperating.

PROGRAMS, ARTICLES: Obtain assistance from teachers in furnishing a part of the program for your annual meeting or local community meetings. Ask aid of English or journalism teachers with some issues of your newsletter, possibly as a class exercise, or of public speaking teachers with radio programs. Ask agriculture or homemaking teachers, or county superintendents of schools to be responsible for certain articles for your newsletters.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

OPEN HOUSE: Invite school groups to attend an open house in your office. Teachers of various subjects may want to bring groups to visit the cooperative as part of the classroom or extra-curricular work. For example, the commercial teacher may want to tour the office to show how a bookkeeper works and how an inventory system operates in practice. Or a civics teacher may want an example of how citizens can form a cooperative. Or a vocational education teacher may want to show the jobs there are in the electrical field and the training required for them. Include a movie and refreshments, or have a good demonstration arranged.

TOURS AND VISITS: Arrange a tour of farms where full use of electricity and good farm and home management practices are combined. Choose farms where electricity is used wisely for whatever activity the agriculture or homemaking teacher wishes to emphasize.

Take classes or youth groups to see how power is generated and distributed.

CONTESTS: Promote well-organized contests on a designated electrical subject through the schools. Use these contests to help publicize your annual meeting or some other special activity. Do not, however, depend upon contests alone for your educational program. Some types of contests that can be conducted include:

Contests already set up: FFA Farm and Home Electrification, 4-H Better Methods Electric, 4-H Frozen Foods, 4-H Farm Safety, and Consumers Cooperative Association Essay contests.

Contests initiated by the cooperative: Essay, speech, demonstration, snapshot, poster, scrapbook, exhibit, skit, quiz questions, homemade electrical equipment, and plans for adequate wiring, lighting, or plumbing.

Offer awards to individual pupils or to the winner's school. These might also possibly be given to the school or school club with largest percentage of pupils participating. Or give a scholarship to a rural electrification short course if one is conducted by your state agricultural college. This usually involves minimum expenses for a week's stay and the trip to and from the state university. Publicize the achievements which bring such awards or scholarships by having the winners report to members and others in community meetings, local news articles and radio appearances.

CLUB CAMPS: If the schools sponsor an FFA, FHA, or other school camp program in your area, offer help with installation of wiring or plumbing and electrical equipment and with program features. Your wiring inspector or electrification adviser may be able to give the type of training needed.

ELECTRICAL FAIR: Assist in sponsoring a high school electrical fair with students' exhibits, educational programs, dealers' displays, entertainment, and movies. Or have a special program for youth as part of a one- or two-day show designated primarily for adults.